



## National Society Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools Report

### Yalding St Peter and St Paul VC Church of England Primary School

Vicarage Road  
Yalding  
ME18 6DP

**Diocese: Rochester**

Local authority: Kent

Dates of inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Date of last inspection: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009

School's unique reference number: 118638

Headteacher: Mrs Dorinda Perry

Inspector's name and number: Mr Steven Gallears

#### School context

Yalding St Peter and St Paul Primary School is a small village school near the town of Maidstone. It is a very popular village school with 157 pupils and is heavily oversubscribed. There have been a number of staff changes since the last SIAS inspection in January 2009. A new Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher were appointed in 2012. There have been two further teaching appointments one of which is the RE Coordinator. The Governing Body has also gone through significant change and a new Chair and Vice-chair were elected in September 2013.

#### The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Yalding as a Church of England school are outstanding

- Christian Values are embedded and shape all that is achieved in the school. This is a caring and loving community where all are valued.
- Collective Worship is greatly valued by all stakeholders. It is distinctively Anglican and provides pupils with ample opportunities to pray and reflect. Effective planning, delivery and monitoring are now in place.
- As a community, the school reaches out to others in need; pupils understand the need to serve others.
- The Headteacher, her team and the Governing Body have a clear and passionate vision for this Church school. All continuously strive to improve.

#### Areas to improve

- Continue to develop the school's mission statement with involvement from all stakeholders.
- Consider the possibility of a reflective (spiritual space) which can be used by all stakeholders.

**The school, through its distinctive Christian character, is outstanding at meeting**

### **the needs of all learners**

The school has a clear Christian character which contributes to outstanding behaviour and good standards of attainment which are well above the national average. Attendance is very high (97.4%), parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. Children feel safe, cared for and loved. Pupils have ample opportunities to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. Prayer and time for reflection is encouraged. Classroom reflective spaces are used regularly to help children to think about their relationship with God. In the year 5/6 class the reflective space has examples of crosses designed by the previous year 6 pupils, several of which were awarded prizes by Bishop of Rochester. The level of detail in these is superb adding to the spiritual experience afforded to all within the school. There are also outstanding examples of pupils' work on Christian values around the school. The children have forged excellent relationships with each other and with adults. They understand Christian values and how they can be used in their daily lives. They can link values to the Bible and to Jesus' teachings. One pupil commented on how the story of the Good Samaritan taught him to help others and to be compassionate. Pupils in year 6 help younger children, a 'helper' system. This is appreciated by the younger pupils and helps the older children to learn key leadership skills. The school actively teaches about other faiths as well as providing a strong focus on Christianity. Children are taught to respect and value others. There are established links with a school in Gambia and the school has a faith in action programme which includes helping and serving others in both the local community (local food bank donations) and the wider world (Philippines' disaster fundraising and prayers). The contribution of Religious Education (RE) to the Christian character is outstanding. Lessons observed and evidence in books shows that the themes in Collective Worship and Christian values are discussed in RE lessons and teachers regularly ask pupils to think about how the school ethos would make them act in given situations.

### **The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding**

Worship has an impact on the lives of pupils and teachers. They have time to reflect and pray. They also take messages away with them, for example year 4 made their own versions of 'make me a channel of your peace' and other pupils reflected on the Sermon on the Mount. Pupils enjoy Collective Worship and are actively engaged. An overwhelming majority want to be involved, they are enthusiastic. In the Collective Worship observed, pupils clearly understood why Christian values are important, one commented, "we should help each other and show service because it is a Christian value". It is distinctively Anglican Worship; the school follows the Diocesan programme to ensure this is the case. Many pupils can articulate what the Trinity is. They understand the centrality of Christ in a Christian's life. Pupils in year 5/6 have completed a unit of work on the Trinity and during the Collective Worship observed, three of them explained this to the rest of the school. All teachers are involved in the planning and delivery of Collective Worship. Governors regularly attend Collective Worship and services at the local church. The Governors have started to evaluate worship. The Governing body is looking to set up a specific 'ethos' sub-committee which will enhance the already outstanding practice. The Incumbent takes an active roll in the spiritual life of the school. He regularly leads worship and supports RE teaching when appropriate. He also conducts yearly confirmation classes for year 6 pupils, running 8 week sessions helping pupils to prepare for confirmation in year 7. All members of the school community encourage pupils to pray and think deeply. Evaluation is conducted by all stakeholders.

### **The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a church school is outstanding**

The school's Christian vision is clearly articulated by all leaders with passion. Children feel safe and support one another and this leads to good standards of achievement, excellent attendance and a common sense of purpose. The Headteacher provides inspirational leadership and has transformed the school's ethos over the past 18 months. There is a relentless striving to improve as a whole school community. A strong and committed team is

now in place. A newly appointed RE co-ordinator is raising the profile of the subject in the school. There is a clear strategic vision from all leaders; the school's self-evaluation is insightful and robust. Areas for improvement from the previous SIAS inspection have been met. Statutory requirements for RE and Collective Worship are met. There is effective and strong Governance, the fine line between support and challenge is in place. All stakeholders are engaged in the strategic development of the school. There are outstanding links with the local church; pupils go to the church regularly especially during key Christian festivals. Initiatives like 'leading lights', 'mini kings club', work with the Wrotham Primary Church Schools cluster and training for staff and Governors are having a positive effect on pupils and on other stakeholders. The school has excellent links with the wider community. Some recent appointments of staff at different levels of leadership in the school have started the process of preparing leaders for the future. Pupils are given leadership roles in the life of the school as a Church school which they relish and take very seriously.

SIAMS report February 2014, Yalding VC School, ME18 6DP